

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application - claims 1 and 11-13 have been amended and claim 14 has been added by the foregoing amendment. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration, and making a record, of documents submitted in Information Disclosure Statements (IDS).

Claims 1-4 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,661,752 (Spink et al.). Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spink and claims 7-9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Spink in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,002,375 (Hoppl et al.). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

Applicants' invention is directed to a microscopy system for observing an object positionable in an object plane by plural observers. As recited in claim 1 for example, the microscopy system comprises: at least one objective lens arrangement, plural ocular systems and a controller.

The objective lens arrangement is for receiving an object side beam emanating from the object plane and for transforming the object side beam into an image side beam.

The plural ocular systems are arranged to enable each of the plural observers to observe the object by looking into a respective one of the plural ocular systems. Each ocular system comprises at least one ocular tube having at least one ocular for generating an image of the object plane from the image side beam. Each of the plural ocular systems further comprises at

least one image projector having a display for superimposing an image displayed by the display with the beam path of the ocular system such that the image of the object plane is perceived by the respective observer in superposition with the image of the display. At least one optical setting of a first ocular system of the plural ocular systems is adjustable independently of a corresponding optical setting of a second ocular system of the plural ocular systems.

The controller is for generating the image displayed by the display of the first ocular system, wherein the controller is configured to generate the displayed image from a first input image based on the at least one optical setting of the first ocular system.

Each of the plural observers uses a separate ocular system; that is, one ocular system is associated with one observer. Each of the observers perceives an image of the object plane 11, wherein this image of the object plane is optically generated with light traversing a beam path extending from the object plane to the respective oculars.

Each observer further perceives an electronically generated image which is superimposed with the optically generated image. The electronically generated image is generated by a display and projected into the beam path such that it is superimposed with the optically generated image.

For this purpose, each of the ocular systems has its own image projector and display. That is, there are plural projectors and displays in Applicants' invention.

Spink describes a shutter control for the integration of additional data into an observation beam path by selectively switching off an undesired observation channel. Spink, however, discloses a microscopy system having two ocular systems (represented by oculars 20a, 20b, 21a

and 21b) with only one display 16 and projector 14 for superimposing the electronically generated image with the optically generated images of both ocular systems.

The use of shutters disposed in the beam paths of first and second ocular systems in Spink is also relied upon for allegedly anticipating the optical settings of Applicants' invention as claimed.

The shutters of Spink determine whether to display the electronically generated image in superposition with the optically generated image in the left or right ocular. The need for this determination rises since only one image projector and display is provided for both the first and second ocular system (and four oculars) in Spink. Since Applicants' invention includes plural displays and image projectors, there is no need for such shutters in Applicants' invention.

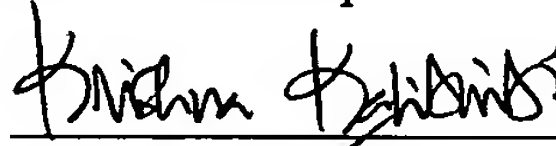
Spink fails to disclose plural displays or image projectors. Therefore, Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1 (as well as claim 11) is not anticipated by (nor is it obvious over) Spink. At least for these reasons, it is believed claims 1 and 11 are allowable.

The remaining claims (i.e. claims 2-10 and 12-14) all of which depend on one of allowable claims 1 and 11 are also allowable. Furthermore, the deficiencies of Spink are not overcome by the teachings of Hoppl.

All of the rejections having been overcome, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to expediting the prosecution of this application, he is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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